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Message Text

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64
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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, EEC, COMECON, DA
SUBJ: COMECON APPROACH TO EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

REF: COPENHAGEN A-87, JULY 27, 1975

1. THE SEMI-OFFICIAL DANISH PRESS BUREAU RITZAU REPORTS FROM BUCHAREST THAT AN APPROACH BY COMECON TOWARD THE EC WAS THE CENTRAL ISSUE IN DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE RUMANIAN GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY FEBRUARY 2. ANDERSEN IS OFFICIALLY VISITING SEVERAL EASTERN EUROPEAN CAPITALS.

2. ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN ANDERSEN'S DELEGATION, THE BUREAU REPORTS, AN INITIATIVE FROM COMECON MAY BE EXPECTED SHORTLY TO PAVE THE ROAD FOR AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS. RUMANIAN LEADERS CONFIRMED THE IMPRESSION WHICH ANDERSEN GOT LAST WEEK IN SOFIA WHERE PRESIDENT TODOR ZHIVKOV RE-PORTEDLY INDICATED THAT A COMECON INITIATIVE WOULD
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BE FORTHCOMING.

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3. THE ACTUAL NATURE OF THE INITIATIVE HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY DISCLOSED. RITZAU, HOWEVER, QUOTES "INFORMED CIRCLES IN BUCHAREST" STATING THAT IT WILL BE A PROPOSAL FOR AN "UMBRELLA" AGREEMENT PERMITTING EACH COMECON COUNTRY TO ENTER SEPARATE AGREEMENTS WITH INDIVIDUAL EC COUNTRIES.

4. COMMENT: WHILE THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF ANDERSEN'S VISITS TO EASTERN EUROPEAN CAPITALS IS TO PROMOTE DANISH TRADE, THE RITZAU REPORT SUGGESTS THAT HE MAY SEE HIMSELF IN THE LARGER ROLE OF PROMOTING CLOSER ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN EASTERN EUROPE AND THE EC. INASMUCH AS HE IS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE EC APPROVAL FOR SUCH INITIATIVES, HE MAY RUN INTO CRITICISM FROM DENMARK'S EC PARTNERS. FOREIGN ECONOMIC MINISTER NORGAARD WAS EARLIER INVOLVED IN A SIMILAR SITUATION REGARDING HIS CONTACTS WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (SEE REFAIR). DEAN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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